

CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 1. A method for developing intellectual property
2 (IP) assets, comprising the steps of:
3 collecting one or more IP assets in accordance
4 with a characterization;
5 determining a market value for the collection in
6 accordance with a plurality of uses for the assets so
7 characterized;
8 holding the collection in an investment trust
9 (IT), wherein each of a plurality of investors
10 contribute in return for a share of said IT in
11 proportion to said determined market value;
12 exploiting the collection, using said
13 contributions to make markets for said plurality of
14 uses and obtain revenue therefrom, and distributing
15 profits to said investors.
- 1 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets
3 involves the same area of technology.
- 1 3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets have
3 uses in the same markets for application.

1 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets
3 involve the same area of social concern.

1 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets would
3 benefit from the same technology breakthrough.

1 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said determining
2 step further comprises the steps of:

3 describing one of said IP assets in said
4 collection;
5 valuing the other IP assets in said collection;
6 auctioning ownership of part or all of said one
7 of said IP assets, a resulting auction price being
8 the determined value.

1 7. A method as in claim 6, wherein the valuation of
2 the other IP assets is based upon the present value
3 of the holder of rights to the assets.

1 8. A method as in claim 6, wherein the valuation of
2 the other IP assets is based upon the estimate of the
3 revenue to be generated during the life of the
4 assets.

1 9. A method as in claim 6, wherein the valuation of
2 the other IP assets is based upon a successful
3 auction price paid for them.

1 10. A method as in claim 9, wherein an opening bid
2 in said auction is based on the current market price
3 of a collection of stocks in companies which utilize
4 intellectual property similar to that in the
5 collection.

1 11. A system for developing intellectual property
2 (IP) assets, comprising:
3 means for collecting one or more IP assets in
4 accordance with a characterization;
5 means for determining a market value for the
6 collection in accordance with a plurality of uses for
7 the assets so characterized;
8 means for holding the collection in an
9 investment trust (IT), wherein each of a plurality of
10 investors contribute in return for a share of said IT
11 in proportion to said determined market value;
12 means for exploiting the collection, using said
13 contributions to make markets for said plurality of
14 uses and obtain revenue therefrom, and distributing
15 profits to said investors.

1 12. A system as in claim 11, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets
3 involves the same area of technology.

1 13. A system as in claim 11, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets have
3 uses in the same markets for application.

1 14. A system as in claim 11, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets
3 involve the same area of social concern.

1 15. A system as in claim 11, wherein said
2 characterization is that each of said IP assets would
3 benefit from the same technology breakthrough.

1 16. A system as in claim 11, wherein said
2 determining means further comprise:
3 means for describing one of said IP assets in
4 said collection;
5 means for valuing the other IP assets in said
6 collection;
7 means for auctioning ownership of part or all of
8 said one of said IP assets, a resulting auction price
9 being the determined value.

1 17. A system as in claim 16, wherein the valuation
2 of the other IP assets is based upon the present
3 value of the holder of rights to the assets.

1 18. A system as in claim 16, wherein the valuation
2 of the other IP assets is based upon the estimate of
3 the revenue to be generated during the life of the
4 assets.

1 19. A system as in claim 16, wherein the valuation
2 of the other IP assets is based upon a successful
3 auction price paid for them.

1 20. A system as in claim 19, wherein an opening bid
2 in said auction is based on the current market price
3 of a collection of stocks in companies which utilize
4 intellectual property similar to that in the
5 collection.